



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Situation Report

Hurricane Rita Support

11am, September 25 2005

Hurricane Rita

Rita has been downgraded to a Tropical Depression. The National Weather Service reports the center of the storm 40 miles northeast of Little Rock, AR, with the leading rain bands extending a wide portion of southeast Missouri. As Rita moved through the South, it dumped up to 12 inches of rain in portions of Louisiana, and up to 8 inches of rain in portions of Texas.

The Storm Prediction Center is forecasting a slight risk of severe weather on Sunday for much of southeast Missouri, including the cities of Cape Girardeau, Kennett, and Poplar Bluff. While widespread severe weather is not expected, there could be isolated tornados and high wind gusts in this area. The Weather Service indicates the potential for local flooding also exists as Rita continues its trek to the northeast.

Response Actions

The American Red Cross in Springfield is making preparations to open a shelter at a local church in response to Rita. That shelter could open as early as this evening. State and local officials, as well as interested volunteer organizations will be participating in a conference call this afternoon to finalize details.

Dept of Health & Senior Services reports a shelter was opened in Ripley County that was housing 16 people.

SEMA continues to staff the State Emergency Operations Center on a 24-hour-a-day basis. Staff are monitoring weather reports, and acting on Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) requests as needed.

The Missouri Donations Hotline (800-841-8891) continues to take calls from anyone wishing to volunteer or donate to victims of both Hurricane Rita and Hurricane Katrina. AmeriCorps volunteers are staffing the hotline from 8am-7pm, seven days a week.

EMAC Support

SEMA continues to respond to EMAC requests as a result of the two hurricanes. Missouri EMAC support for the two storms includes the following:

- A SEMA employee has been deployed to Baton Rouge, LA to assist in the state's emergency operations center.
- Members from several fire departments in Region C (St Louis area) continue their work in Gulfport, MS with 26 personnel and 12 water tankers. They are assisting the local fire department with firefighting activities.
- SEMA will send four personnel at various times during October to provide assistance to the State of Mississippi with floodplain management activities.

Points of Contact:

SEMA can be contacted on a 24-hour basis at 573-526-9100.